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EXAMINER

JOHNSON, MARLON B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

DATE MAILED: 01/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/521,152

Applicant(s)

HAMILTON ET AL.

Examiner

Marlon Johnson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-88 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-88 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 March 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3, 5-9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code (see page 2, line 10; page 3 lines 9-10). Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description:

- Fig. 2A:Step 272, Step 280
- Fig. 3: 318, 334 (it appears that page 26, lines 12-13, refer to it), 336

A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description:

- message step 288 on page 22, line 15 (it appears that it should be message step 282).

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 82 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Agraharam et al. (5,987,508), and in further view of Low et al. (6,466,570).

In considering claim 82,

Agraharam et al. discloses a signal embodied in computer system, comprising an email message which contains a telecommunications number as an email address in place of at least an alphanumeric user name (see col. 3, lines 10-23).

Although Agraharam et al. shows substantial features of the claimed invention, he fails to disclose a telecommunications number being used in place of at least a conventional domain name. However, Low et al., whose invention is a method of accessing service resource items

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that are for use in a telecommunications system, discloses such a telecommunications number being used in place of at least a conventional domain name (see col. 17, lines 55-60). Therefore, given the teachings of Low et al., it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skills in the art to modify Agraharam et al. by using a telecommunications number as an email address in place of at least an alphanumeric domain name in order to simplify the alphanumeric-to-numeric conversion of the domain name being performed by the DNS (domain name server).

7. Claim 88 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agraharam et al., and further in view of Nicholls et al. (6,363,414).

In considering claim 88,

Agraharam et al. discloses a signal embodied in computerized telecommunications system, comprising a database which creates correspondences between telecommunications numbers and email addresses (see Fig. 2).

Although Agraharam et al. shows substantial features of the claimed invention, he fails to disclose each telecommunications number also allowing at least one of voice, fax, wireless, and pager communications independently of any email messaging system. However, Nicholls et al., whose invention is a method for converting an email message to a different format and retransmitting to a location other than recipient address information in the email address, discloses such an allowance of voice, fax, wireless, and pager communications independently of any email messaging system (see Fig. 1, Messaging Server 12; Fig. 3, Steps 300, 306, 308, and 310). Therefore, given the teachings of Nicholls et al., it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skills in the art to modify Agraharam et al. by allowing at least one of voice, fax, wireless, and pager communications independently of any email messaging system in order to

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provide the option for sending messages to more than one type of device having to rely on only an email being sent.

8. Claims 1-81 and 83-87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agraharam et al. and Low et al. as applied to claim 82, and further in view of Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 1, 14, 15, 45, and 78,

Agraharam et al. discloses a method, system, and configured computer program product for routing a message, comprising the steps of:

an email receiver for receiving an email message which includes at least a destination address and may include message content, the destination address including a telecommunications number in place of at least a conventional user name (see col. 3, lines 10-23);

an address matcher for attempting to obtain a delivery addressing index (actual e-mail address) which corresponds to the telecommunications number in the destination address (see col. 3, lines 24-41, lines 59-66; Fig. 1, Translation Server 110); and

if message content is present and a delivery addressing index is obtained, advancing the email message content for delivery using the delivery addressing index (see col. 3, lines 59-66).

Additionally, Low et al. discloses a telecommunications number being used in place of at least a conventional domain name, in which the domain name is entirely non-alphabetic (see col. 17, lines 55-60).

Although Agraharam et al. and Joy et al. show substantial features of the claimed invention, they fail to disclose selecting at least one delivery mode. However, Nicholls et

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al. discloses such a selection of at least one delivery mode via a mode selector (messaging task enablement) (see col. 4, lines 32-37, lines 41-46). Therefore, given the teachings of Nicholls et al., it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skills in the art to modify Agraharam et al. and Low et al. by selecting at least one delivery mode in order to provide the option for sending messages to more than one type of device.

Additionally, Nicholls et al. discloses advancing the email message content for delivery using at least one selected delivery mode if message content is present (see Fig. 2a, Block 234; Fig. 3, Block 302; Fig. 4, Block 404; Fig. 5, Block 504; Fig. 6, Block 604).

In considering claims 2 and 79,

Agraharam et al. discloses a method and configured storage medium wherein the addressing index includes an email address (see col. 3, lines 24-41, lines 59-66).

In considering claims 4 and 46,

Nicholls et al. discloses a method and system wherein the step of selecting a delivery mode is performed at the direction of a message sender (see col. 4, lines 32-34).

In considering claim 7,

Agraharam et al. discloses a method wherein the number is obtained through directory assistance (see Fig. 3, Steps 304, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313).

In considering claim 16,

Nicholls et al. discloses a method wherein the receiving step receives an email message whose destination telecommunications number is a pre-existing voice line number identifying a

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telephone number which can also be used for live voice communications (see col. 3, lines 66-67 and col. 4, lines 1-8; Fig. 1, Telephony Sub-System 22; Fig. 7; Fig. 6).

In considering claim 17,

Nicholls et al. discloses a method wherein the receiving step receives an email message whose destination telecommunications number is a pre-existing voice line number identifying a telephone number which can also be used for voicemail communications (see col. 3, lines 66-67 and col. 4, lines 1-8; Fig. 1, Telephony Sub-System 22; Fig. 7; Fig. 6).

In considering claim 18,

Nicholls et al. discloses a method wherein the receiving step receives an email message whose destination telecommunications number is a pre-existing fax line number identifying a fax number which can also be used for fax-to-fax communications (see col. 3, lines 40-50; Fig. 1, Facsimile sub-system 18; Fig. 7; Fig. 4).

In considering claim 19,

Nicholls et al. discloses a method wherein the receiving step receives an email message whose destination telecommunications number is a pre-existing internet connection line number identifying a internet connection number which can also be used for internet access (see col. 4, lines 12-21; Fig. 1; E-Mail Subsystem 24; Fig. 7) [note: in order to send e-mails to the messaging server 12 in Fig. 1; internet access must be established for accepting the e-mail, which must be identified by its destination in order to be received].

In considering claim 23,

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Joy et al. discloses a method wherein the receiving step receives an email message whose message content is formatted according to Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions format (see col. 8, lines 47-60).

In considering claim 25,

Agraharam et al. discloses a method wherein the attempting step attempts to obtain a delivery email address that includes attribute-value pairs (employee-workplace) (see Fig. 1, "steveg+attmail.com").

In considering claims 27 and 80,

Agraharam et al. discloses a method and configured storage medium wherein the attempting step uses the telecommunications number as an index into a database of public keys to obtain a public key corresponding to the telecommunications number (see Fig. 1, Database 117; col. 3, lines 40-46).

In considering claims 30 and 81,

Agraharam et al. discloses a method and configured storage medium wherein the attempting step attempts to obtain a delivery addressing index using a database maintained on an email gateway (Fig. 1, Translation Server 110) which separates a network (Fig. 1, POTS Network 109) from the Internet, and the email message was composed on a machine (Fig. 1, Client Machine 101) in the network (see Fig. 1, Database 117; col. 3, lines 40-46).

In considering claim 31,

Nicholls et al. discloses a method wherein the selecting step selects voice delivery as a delivery mode (see col. 3, lines 66-67 and col. 4, lines 1-8; Fig. 1, Telephony Sub-System 22).

In considering claim 32,

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Low et al. discloses a method wherein the advancing step uses a wireless communications link (see col. 33, lines 49-51).

In considering claim 33,

Nicholls et al. discloses a method wherein the attempting step succeeds in obtaining a delivery email address as the addressing index and the selecting step selects email text delivery as a delivery mode (see col. 4, lines 12-21; Fig. 1; E-Mail Subsystem 24; Fig. 7).

In considering claims 34 and 67,

Nicholls et al. discloses a method and system wherein the selecting step also selects voice delivery as a delivery mode and the advancing step comprises synthesizing speech from text in the email message content and then delivering the synthesized speech to a recipient at the telecommunications number (see col. 3, lines 66-67 and col. 4, lines 1-8; Fig. 1, Telephony Sub-System 22).

In considering claims 37 and 70,

Nicholls et al. discloses a method wherein the selecting step also selects fax delivery as a delivery mode and the advancing step comprises generating a fax containing the email message content and then delivering the fax to a fax machine at the telecommunications number (see col. 3, lines 40-48; Fig. 1, Facsimile Subsystem 18).

In considering claim 38,

Nicholls et al. discloses a method wherein the attempting step fails to obtain an email address, the selecting step selects voice delivery as a delivery mode, and the advancing step comprises synthesizing speech from text in the email message content and then delivering the synthesized speech to a recipient at the telecommunications number (see Fig. 3, Box 300 "No",

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Box 310; col. 3, lines 66-67 and col. 4, lines 1-8; Fig. 1, Telephony Sub-System 22) [note: failing to obtain an email address is the same as determining that the e-mail is not to be forwarded to another e-mail address, as in Box 300].

In considering claim 41,

Nicholls et al. discloses a method wherein the attempting step fails to obtain a delivery email address, the selecting step selects fax delivery as a delivery mode, and the advancing step comprises generating a fax containing the email message content and then delivering the fax to a fax machine recipient at the telecommunications number (see Fig. 3, Box 300 "No", Box 306; col. 3, lines 40-48; Fig. 1, Facsimile Subsystem 18).

In considering claim 44,

Nicholls et al. discloses a method wherein the telecommunications number identifies a pager, and the advancing step comprises delivering the email message content to the pager (see Fig. 1, Pager Subsystem 20; col. 3, lines 57-61).

In considering claim 48,

Nicholls et al. discloses a system wherein the mode selector selects a mode in response to at least one rule previously specified by the message sender (form of delivery) (see Fig. 7, Priority Messaging Parameters 702).

In considering claim 49,

Agraharam et al. discloses a system further comprising a telecommunications number detector that determines whether the email destination address contains a telecommunications number, and an email diverter (see Fig. 1, Translation Server 110).

In considering claim 50,

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Agraharam et. al. discloses a system wherein the email diverter diverts the email to a predefined location (the sender of the e-mail) (see col. 4, lines 28-34).

In considering claim 51,

Agraharam et al. discloses a system wherein the email diverter diverts the email to a location identified by modifying the delivery destination address (see col. 4, lines 28-34) [note: the delivery destination address has been modified by being entirely replaced with the sender's address to send back].

In considering claim 54,

Agraharam et al. discloses a system wherein the address matcher comprises a database which places telecommunications numbers in correspondence with delivery email addresses (see Fig. 1, Database 117; col. 3, lines 40-46).

In considering claim 62,

Nicholls discloses a system wherein the mode selector recognizes configuration flags (fax, pager, telephone, PC) (see Fig. 1; col. 4, lines 41-56).

In considering claims 63, 64, and 65,

Nicholls et al. discloses a system wherein the configuration flags specify for at least one destination that voice delivery should be used only if no delivery email address is obtained, that voice delivery should be used even if a delivery email address is obtained, and that email delivery, voice delivery, pager delivery, and fax delivery should each be attempted (see Fig. 2a, Steps 210, 218, 226, and 232) [note: the sender has the option of enabling any amount of device(s) they chose to].

In considering claim 66,

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Agraharam et al. discloses a system wherein the configuration flags for at least one destination specify that delivery should be attempted multiple times until a delivery confirmation is received (see col. 4, lines 26-28).

In considering claim 84,

Nicholls et al. discloses a signal further comprising at least one configuration flag which specifies at least one email delivery mode (see Fig. 7, 706).

In considering claim 3,

Official notice is taken regarding the addressing index includes a web site address. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a web site address as a correspondence to a telecommunications phone number. Any type of static address, including an email address, could be used as a viable index. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify using a web address as an addressing index, using one is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 5 and 47,

Official notice is taken regarding the step of selecting a delivery mode being performed at the direction of a message recipient. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for the message recipient to select the delivery mode. The option of having the message sender or the message recipient selecting the delivery mode is based upon the designer's choice. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify giving the message recipient the option of selecting the delivery mode, doing so is an obvious

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modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claim 6, 8, 9, 10,

Official notice is taken regarding the telecommunications number used as the destination address is a publicly listed number, the publicly listed number is obtained through directory assistance, the telecommunications number used as the destination address is an unlisted number, the telecommunications number used as the destination address includes a toll-free number, and the telecommunications number used as the destination address includes a 900 toll number. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the above methods to obtain and use various telecommunications number. The type of telecommunications number used, as well as how to obtain a telecommunications number, have been in use for a long time. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify the telecommunications number used as the destination address is a publicly listed number, the publicly listed number is obtained through directory assistance, the telecommunications number used as the destination address is an unlisted number, the telecommunications number used as the destination address includes a toll-free number, or the telecommunications number used as the destination address includes a 900 toll number, these are obvious modifications to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 11, 12, and 13,

Official notice is taken regarding an origin address including an origin telecommunications number, responding to the email message using the origin address as the

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new destination address, and the origin telecommunications number used in place of a conventional alphanumeric origin address domain name. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the origin address being used as the destination address, as well as including a telecommunications number in the origin address domain address. The concept of using a telecommunications number as the address domain name has already been established, so applying that to the origin address is no different than applying it to the destination address. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify an origin address including an origin telecommunications number, responding to the email message using the origin address as the new destination address, or the origin telecommunications number used in place of a conventional alphanumeric origin address domain name, doing so is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 20, 21, and 22,

Official notice is taken regarding an email message whose message content is located at least in part in text in a subject field, an email message whose message content is located at least in part in text in a message field, and an email message whose message content is located at least in part in text in an attached file. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have message content located, as text, in a subject field, message field, and attached file. Text message content has been provided in the subject field, message field, and attached file for quite a while. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify an email message whose message content is located at least in part in text in a subject field, an email message whose message content is located at least in part in text in a

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message field, and an email message whose message content is located at least in part in text in an attached file, doing one is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claim 24,

Official notice is taken regarding a delivery email address that includes an alphanumeric user name and an alphanumeric domain name. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize an email address comprising both an alphanumeric user name and domain name. Such a format has been in wide use for a while. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify a delivery email address that includes an alphanumeric user name and an alphanumeric domain name, using such a format is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 26 and 28,

Official notice is taken regarding obtaining a delivery addressing index using a database maintained on a client machine on which the email message was composed, as well as using a database maintained on "an email server machine. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to obtain a delivery addressing index using a database maintained on a client machine on which the email message was composed, as well as using a database maintained on "an email server machine. Agraharam et al. even discloses the option of having the database located elsewhere over the internet (see col. 4, lines 1-2).

Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify obtaining a delivery addressing index using a database maintained on a client machine on which the email message

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was composed, as well as using a database maintained on "an email server machine, doing so is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claim 29,

Official notice is taken regarding the email server machine utilizes Simple Mail Transfer Protocol. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, as SMTP has widely been in use for sending messages from one computer to another on a network. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify an email server machine utilizes Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, using it is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 35, 36, 39, and 40,

Official notice is taken regarding delivering the synthesized speech to a voicemail box recipient and delivering the synthesized speech to a live recipient. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to deliver synthesized speech to a voicemail box, as well as a live recipient. Both receiving methods for been in use for a while as a means for receiving any type of speech, including synthesized. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify delivering the synthesized speech to a voicemail box recipient and delivering the synthesized speech to a live recipient, doing so is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 42 and 43,

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Official notice is taken regarding the telecommunications number being subject to call forwarding to a second telecommunications number, and the advancing step comprising delivering the email message content to a recipient at the second telecommunications number. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use call forwarding to deliver the message to another telecommunications number. Call forwarding has been in use for a while. Both receiving methods for been in use for a while as a means for receiving any type of speech, including synthesized. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify the telecommunications number being subject to call forwarding to a second telecommunications number, and the advancing step comprising delivering the email message content to a recipient at the second telecommunications number, doing so is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 52 and 53,

Official notice is taken regarding the email receiver comprising a client email program running on a client machine, as well as the email receiver comprising a groupware program running on a client machine. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize a client email program and a groupware program for providing both individual and collaborative communications via email. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify the email receiver comprising a client email program running on a client machine, as well as the email receiver comprising a groupware program running on a client machine, using such formats are obvious modifications to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

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In considering claim 55,

Official notice is taken regarding the system including a database interface for placing telecommunications numbers and delivery addressing indexes in the database to create correspondences between them. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create a correspondence between the telecommunications numbers and the delivery addressing indexes in order to create a back-up copy. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify the system including a database interface for placing telecommunications numbers and delivery addressing indexes in the database to create correspondences between them, doing so is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 56, 57, 58, and 76,

Official notice is taken regarding the database interface authenticating telecommunications numbers before placing their in the database, the database interface authenticating telecommunications numbers using automatic number identification, and the database interface authenticates telecommunications numbers using a digital signature. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize an automatic number identification and digital signature for performing authentication in order to provide secure access, as both of the methods have been in use for a while. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify the database interface authenticating telecommunications numbers before placing their in the database, the database interface authenticating telecommunications numbers using automatic number identification, and the database interface authenticates telecommunications numbers using a digital signature, using

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such means is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claim 59,

Official notice is taken regarding the database is maintained by a regional Bell operating company. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ a regional Bell operating company for maintaining a database, as many databases have already been managed by such companies. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify the database is maintained by a regional Bell operating company, using such a company is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 60 and 61,

Official notice is taken regarding the database including an X.500 database, and the database including an X.509 database. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use such databases, as both have been in use for a while. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify the database including an X.500 database, and the database including an X.509 database, using such databases are obvious modifications to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 68 and 69,

Official notice is taken regarding the deliverer comprises computer implemented natural language translation, and the deliverer delivers a natural language translation prepared by a person. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

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invention to employ both methods for performing natural language translation, as person and computer implemented translations have been used for a while. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify the deliverer comprises computer implemented natural language translation, and the deliverer delivers a natural language translation prepared by a person, using such translations are obvious modifications to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 71 and 72,

Official notice is taken regarding the email sender comprises a messaging service in a telecommunications system, as well as the messaging service is accessed by message originators through a toll-free telephone number. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to set up and use such a messaging service, as they have been in use for a while in devices such as answering and voice mail machines. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify the email sender comprises a messaging service in a telecommunications system, as well as the messaging service is accessed by message originators through a toll-free telephone number, using such a service is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 73, 74, and 87,

Official notice is taken regarding the deliverer comprises a speech-to-text generator which converts speech into written message content, and the deliverer performs video streaming to deliver message content. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a speech-to-text generator, as well as streaming video content. Both practices have been widely in use for a while. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and

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Nicholls et al. never specify the deliverer comprises a speech-to-text generator which converts speech into written message content, and the deliverer performs video streaming to deliver message content, doing so is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claim 75,

Official notice is taken regarding more than one entity having a delivery email address that corresponds to the telecommunications number in the destination address and the address matcher attempts to obtain a delivery email address for an entity that is geographically nearest an originator of the email message. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to geographically determine a destination as a way to resolve conflicting destinations. Such a geographic determination has been used in location services as a second parameter for determining conflicting contact information (e.g. 411). Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify more than one entity having a delivery email address that corresponds to the telecommunications number in the destination address and the address matcher attempts to obtain a delivery email address for an entity that is geographically nearest an originator of the email message, doing so is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claim 77,

Official notice is taken regarding the mode selector comprising a visual interface. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ such a visual interface for selecting the deliver mode, as such interfaces are widely in use by many e-mail applications (e.g. Inbox, AOL). Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and

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Nicholls et al. never specify the mode selector comprising a visual interface, using such an interface is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claim 83,

Official notice is taken regarding the email message further comprising an origin telecommunications number used as an email origin address. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have an origin telecommunications number, as well as a destination telecommunications number disclosed above, as an email address. Using such an origin number has no effect on the delivery of the message disclosed above. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify the email message further comprising an origin telecommunications number used as an email origin address, using such a number is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

In considering claims 85 and 86,

Official notice is taken regarding at least one configuration flag which specifies a staggered delivery mode, and at least one configuration flag which specifies a wireless delivery mode. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a configuration flag for specifying the different delivery modes, as configuration flags have been in use for a while. Although Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al. never specify at least one configuration flag which specifies a staggered delivery mode, and at least one configuration flag which specifies a wireless delivery mode, doing so is an obvious modification to the methods and systems disclosed by Agraharam et al., Low et al., and Nicholls et al.

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Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (Agraharam et al. 6085231, Andersen et al. 5974453, Bettis 6421708, Foladare et al. 6373926, Matsuo 6373246, Lund 6104789, Freeny Jr. 6477242, Nestoriak III et al. 6353852, Mori 6417930).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marlon Johnson whose telephone number is (703) 305-4642.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess, can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3230.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Marlon B. Johnson


MOUSTAFA M. MEKY
PRIMARY EXAMINER